

Note to Readers

Dear Reader,

Starting with this first issue of 2008 (Vol. 113, No. 1), Robert Dragoset succeeds me as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*. It has been a great experience to serve as Chief Editor of the *Journal* for the past seven years. During that time, I have been privileged to review papers of NIST's illustrious scientists and engineers working in a great variety of areas, and to become better acquainted with the people themselves behind the work. The subjects I have learned about range from concrete engineering to the Watt balance for establishing a new basis for the unit of mass to several histories, including one featuring the correspondence of our first Director, Samuel Stratton, on the standard temperature for length measurement. Serving as Chief Editor has been a most educational experience.

The past seven years have seen significant changes for the *Journal*. The Board of Editors introduced a feature known as the Invited Review Article. These review articles covered a variety of topics, among them were superb reviews of carbon dating and the measurement of little *g*. In addition, a real sea change has been taking place in publishing. Like other scientific and technical journals, the *Journal* began to experience a greater demand for the electronic version over print subscriptions. In 2007, the electronic version of the *Journal* received about 1.6 million hits.

Although I am stepping down as Chief Editor, I am honored to continue as a member of the Board of Editors and work with the new Chief Editor, Bob Dragoset. As the Manager of the Office of Electronic Commerce in Scientific and Engineering Data in the Physics Laboratory, Bob oversees a wide range of databases in different fields of physics. He is, therefore, ideally suited to lead the *Journal* further into the digital age. He also has an eye and a respect for editorial quality and exactness, an important strength of *Journal* articles. Although it has undergone several name changes, the *Journal* has been in continuous existence since 1904, a few years less than NIST itself. Bob will uphold the traditions of scientific excellence that the *Journal* has fostered since its foundation.

Theodore Vorburger
Outgoing Chief Editor

Message From the New Chief Editor

Dear Reader,

I am honored to succeed Theodore (Ted) Vorburger as Chief Editor of the *Journal of Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology*. In the tradition of Ted and Barry N. Taylor, Chief Editor Emeritus, I plan to continue to apply high standards to the process of selecting and editing manuscripts for the *Journal*. I want to thank Ted, Barry, and those who've served on the *Journal's* Board of Editors for their contributions and dedication to the *Journal*. In working previously with Barry, I always appreciated his fine attention to detail in his endeavors, a quality I intend to apply to my new position as Chief Editor. I want to especially thank Ted for his helpfulness in making the Chief Editor transition a smooth process, and for his willingness to continue to serve as an active member of the *Journal's* Board of Editors.

Robert A. Dragoset
Chief Editor